

THE BOTANICAL EXPLORERS OF CALIFORNIA.—VI.

WILLIS LINN JEPSON

Archibald Menzies

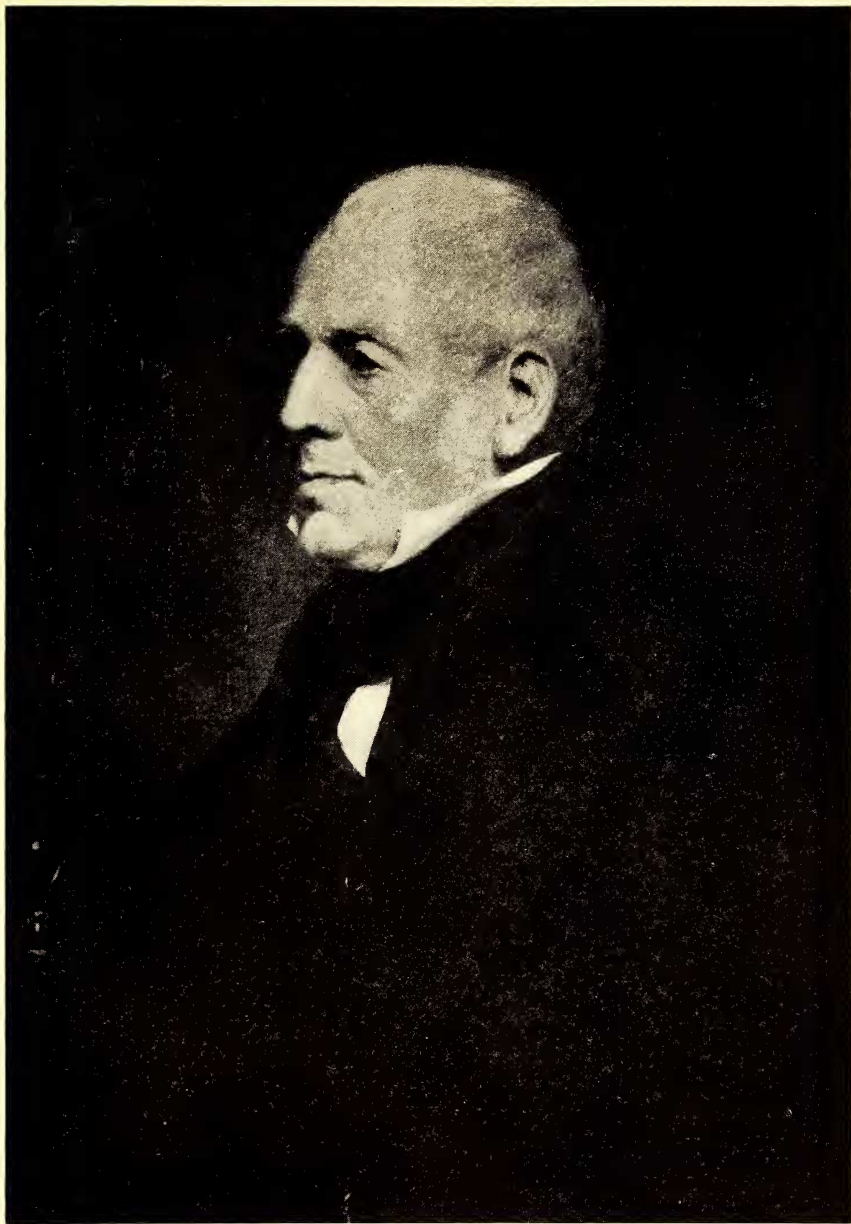
The first botanist to collect along the western shores of North America was Archibald Menzies. Attached to Captain Colnett's first voyage to the Northwest Coast he botanized at various places from Nootka to Bering's Straits in the years 1787 and 1788, but there is little record either of the voyage itself or of Menzies' part in it. In 1790 he was assigned¹ to Vancouver's voyage to Nootka and remained with the expedition until its close.

The expedition consisted of two ships, the *Discovery* and *Chatham*. They sailed on March 17, 1792 from the Sandwich Islands, sighted the Mendocino bluffs in the neighborhood of Fort Bragg and proceeded north to carry on an exploration survey of the coast during the summer. Returning southward in the autumn the expedition entered San Francisco Bay on Nov. 14, 1792, thence going to Monterey and then to the Sandwich Islands. Leaving the islands in the spring, the ships fell in with land on the Humboldt coast where a party went ashore at Trinidad, May 3, 1793, thence proceeding again northward for summer surveying. On Oct. 19, 1793, the expedition again anchored in San Francisco Bay for a second visit, soon leaving for Monterey, thence returning to the Sandwich Islands by way of the Lower California coast. On March 15, 1794 the two ships set off once more for the Alaskan coast and at the end of the season visited Monterey for the third and last time (Nov. 7 to Dec. 2, 1794).

At nearly all places where the ships anchored collections were made by Menzies. The season was often unfavorable and there were other difficulties, but even so, his gatherings of specimens were important and very considerable. In 1792 while the expedition anchored near the Presidio at San Francisco (Nov. 14-24) the botanist went ashore and made notes of the vegetation, but did not join the excursion to San Jose, although writing up in his journal a very lively account of this land journey derived from his brother officers. At Monterey there was full opportunity for shore excursions (Nov. 26, 1792 to Jan.

¹ For his appointment as surgeon and botanist to the Vancouver Expedition Menzies was indebted to Sir Joseph Banks. Sir Joseph was a great personage in his day. A patron of science, perhaps to be regarded as the real founder of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, President of the Royal Society, he had all the influence which goes with education and learning, great wealth, high social station and an agreeable personality. In addition he had what is known as the grand manner and was very much in the public eye in the London of that day. There was no one in the great metropolis of any consequence, we may say, but that knew him personally or knew of him. On the occasion of my last visit to the Natural History Museum in London, the Keeper of the Herbarium, Dr. A. B. Rendle, called my attention to some framed caricatures of Sir Joseph hanging on the wall of his study, good-natured cartoons scattered about the town over one hundred years ago.

Sir Joseph went out with Captain Cook's third voyage as a member of the scientific staff. Banks Island on the British Columbian coast was named for him.



ARCHIBALD MENZIES, F.L.S.

Reproduced from an oil painting by E. N. Eddis hanging in the assembly chamber of the Linnean Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London.

14, 1793) and his journal shows that he covered exactly the stations where *Arctostaphylos tomentosa* Pursh grows and of which Menzies² was the first collector. Mistakenly attributed to the "Northwest Coast", for a full century this species was thought to grow along the Oregon and Washington shores. Without doubt Menzies must have collected his specimens at Monterey, the shrub of the northern coast being a different one, namely *Arctostaphylos columbiana* Piper, long known, but not named until recent years.

In 1793 the expedition anchored at Trinidad for a few days (May 2-5), but according to his journal Menzies did not accompany the watering party ashore. While this is the type station for his new *Ribes*, *R. Menziesii* Pursh, it may be said that the journal shows that the various members of the ship's company, in the interest of the naturalist, were in the habit of bringing objects of natural history to him. In the autumn the expedition again sailed southward from the British Columbian coast. The *Chatham*, with Menzies aboard, anchored for one day (Oct. 20) in Bodega Bay and a shore trip was made. Going on to San Francisco Bay, Menzies rejoined the *Discovery*, his regular berth, but the unfriendly attitude of the new Spanish commandant furnished Captain Vancouver a reason for not permitting the botanist to continue his field work here. After a few days in this port (Oct. 21-24), the ships sailed for Monterey, where for the period of the stay (Nov. 1-6) similar restrictions were in force. Going on down the coast, Vancouver and his officers were received hospitably at Santa Barbara (Nov. 10-18), where Menzies made several botanizing trips. At San Buenaventura (Nov. 18-22) he did not land, but enjoyed shore excursions at San Diego (Nov. 27 to Dec. 9).

In 1794 the *Discovery* and *Chatham* anchored for the third time at Monterey. Their reception by the Spanish officers on this occasion was most hospitable and many land trips were made. It was during this stay that Captain Vancouver made a journey to the Vancouver Pinnacles east of the Salinas River. A launch was sent across Monterey Bay to Santa Cruz for fresh provisions and Menzies may well have gone with her and at this time have collected the Redwood, though I possess no portion of his journal covering the year 1794. In any event, the original specimen of *Sequoia sempervirens* in the National History Museum bears the legend on the back of the sheet, "Santa Cruz, Menzies." At no place in the journal before me, however, does Menzies mention seeing this most remarkable of all Californian coastal trees, either near Monterey or elsewhere, though indubitably he saw it at Trinidad, where it covers the high slopes near the shore with a stately forest.³

After the return of the expedition to England, the plant collection was not, unfortunately, worked up as a whole under one direction.

² The writer first examined the Menzies specimens at the Natural History Museum in 1905.

³ The great trees of this forest have now been logged.

While the first set went to the government and is now preserved in the National Herbarium at the Natural History Museum in London, special portions of the duplicates were presented to various botanists and publication of the new plants was done piecemeal in a scattering manner and usually after long delay. An unfortunate lack is the frequent absence of definite stations for the collections, which has resulted, in some cases, in no little confusion. Perhaps about fifteen years since the existence in manuscript of a Menzies' journal of the Vancouver voyage, preserved in the British Museum, was called to the writer's attention. Several years later through the intervention of his friend, Mr. E. G. Baker, of the Natural History Museum, a copy was made of the Pacific Coast part of the manuscript.

It was with the highest expectations that I looked forward to reading Menzies' own account of his discovery of the many new species on our coast line, where no botanist save Haenke had been before him in California. With the Menzies journal in hand, a carefully prepared and validated transcript, it was at once obvious that one possessed a valuable historical document, but it was also apparent that it contained comparatively scanty records regarding the native vegetation. In the journal Menzies from time to time makes a few notes, in more or less general terms, of his botanical excursions ashore, but on account of the utter strangeness of the vegetation his comments are not, on the whole, of much significance. At that time the importance of a strictly scientific botanical journal with a numbering of specimens in sequence by stations and dated as collected was not appreciated and such careful methods in the way of field research work had not then been developed.

On the other hand the journal is amply filled with other matters. Save for the references to himself as a botanist just noted one might suppose from reading the manuscript that Menzies was the navigator or geographer of the expedition. The progress of the Discovery or her consort, the Chatham, every storm that impeded, every wind that aided their movement is faithfully set down. He records the land-falls and their appearance, the channels, the islands and the straits, the nature of the shoreline and the aspect of the country back of it. Ashore, with evident eagerness, he describes the natives, their physique, features, dress or absence of it, personal habits and tribal customs, food and means of subsistence. The missions in California are depicted and considerable space given to their industries and agriculture. The movements of the trading ships and the bartering for otter skins and furs came under his appraising eye. He was the first to make a correct guess as to the nature of the then unknown animal, the Rocky Mountain goat⁴, that furnished the "fine long white wool" used by the natives for their superior cloth on the upper coast of what is now British Columbia. The amazing runs of salmon in the mouths of the small streams emptying into the

⁴ *Oreamnos montanus* (Ord), a kind of antelope or chamois, not in the least of the goat family.

archipelago waters on the British Columbian coast, the habits of an enormous school of otters with their young which an exploring party one day chanced into in the same waters, the prices of cattle and fowl in California, the structure and make of the water-tight canoes in the Santa Barbara Channel—all these and numerous other matters testify that, in all probability, few things escaped his naturalist's eye. Faithfully and industriously he made every effort to carry out zealously the instructions of the Admiralty as prepared for that office by Sir Joseph Banks.⁵

Moreover the journal merits high praise in itself. Its statements are characterized by restraint and sobriety, and yet its descriptions are earnest and vivifying. The style, while occasionally a little pompous, is on the whole, nervous and forceful, showing an excellent command of the English vocabulary and exhibiting the writer as a man of deep thought and wide and careful observation, with a philosophical cast to his reflections. It is, by and large, an animated journal and difficult for any one interested in Pacific Coast history to lay down after once begun.

The transcript of the Pacific Coast part of Menzies' journal, as made for my use, consists of 752 pages. The first entry is that of April 15, 1792, when the *Discovery* and *Chatham* were approaching the Mendocino coast in the neighborhood of the present Fort Bragg. The last entry is that of Dec. 15, 1793, off the Lower California coast. The record covers, during the years 1792 and 1793, the activi-

⁵As one of the scientific staff on Cook's third voyage, Sir Joseph had had experience as an explorer and was mindful of the needs of a surveying voyage and took an especial interest in the welfare of the expedition to Nootka under Vancouver. His letter of instruction to the botanist may to this day be regarded as a model of its kind. Menzies, therefore, reported to Sir Joseph by letter during the course of the voyage and on his return at the end of it. These letters are in the Banks Correspondence at the Natural History Museum, London. By the kind permission of the Keeper of the Herbarium, Dr. A. B. Rendle, they were copied for me in 1926. Letters of this kind are more intimate and revealing than a journal which is made with the idea of being filed with governmental authorities. In these letters Menzies discusses amongst other things the affair of Thos. Pitt, Lord Camelford, son of the first Lord Camelford who was a nephew of the great William Pitt, first Earl of Chatham. As the Honorable Thos. Pitt, Lord Camelford had joined the crew of the *Discovery* as an Able Seaman. While on the voyage his father died and he thus became Lord Camelford. For insubordination he was thrice flogged at the order of Captain Vancouver, kept in irons, and discharged from the ship at the Sandwich Islands. Flogging has of course long since been abolished but it is, we think, one of the glories of the British navy that a lord could be flogged at the masthead just like a common sailor, or in other words that the rules and tradition of the naval service exerted greater force than the claims of nobility. This matter of Camelford has an especial interest because Menzies himself, as revealed by his letters, was put under arrest and perhaps only escaped flogging or the indignity of irons by reason of his judicial temper. It has indeed long been a wonder with me that Menzies, though generally acknowledged mild and just in disposition, came out so well in the end; but the return voyage brought the expedition into the Thames River in 1795 and he was enabled to appeal immediately to his great friend and powerful patron, Sir Joseph Banks.

ties of the Vancouver survey from San Diego to the northern coast of British Columbia.

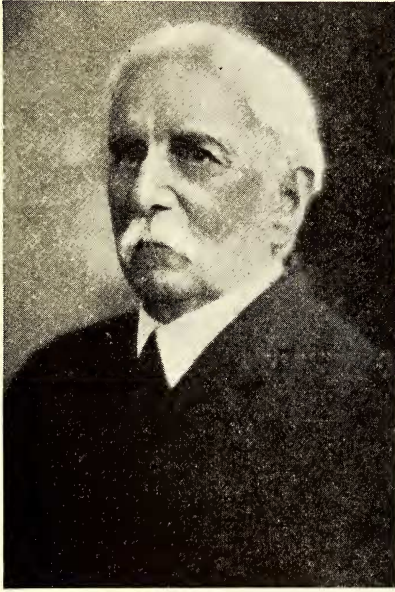
By birth Archibald Menzies was of Scotland and belonged to a race of gardeners and botanists. Born at Aberfeldy in Perthshire on March 15, 1754, he became a gardener at the Royal Botanic Garden at Edinburgh. At this place he attracted the attention of Dr. John Hope, Professor of Botany, who encouraged him to acquire the training of a surgeon at Edinburgh University. Subsequently he was attached to the navy in a surgical capacity. After returning from the Vancouver voyage he served in the West Indies, after which he lived as a practising surgeon in London where he died Feb. 15, 1842. The name Menzies is properly pronounced as if spelt *Minges*, but we in California have so long spoken the name phonetically that our pronunciation has come to have, in western America, the force of usage. The fame of Menzies is commemorated by many western plants. Our madrono, a tree than which none other in the western woods is more marked by sylvan beauty, is well known by its latin name, *Arbutus menziesii*, while the genus *Menziesia* includes seven species of arborescent or low shrubs of North America and eastern Asia.

One evening in 1906 found me at a meeting of the Linnean Society in Burlington House, Piccadilly, London. The walls of the assembly room are hung with oil paintings of the past presidents of the Society, distinguished names all. Dr. B. Daydon Jackson, the Secretary, called my attention to one of them in particular. It was that of Archibald Menzies who held the presidency after the death of A. B. Lambert. The portrait is by E. N. Eddis, a copy of which is reproduced in this issue of Madroño.

[Cf. G. S. Boulger, *Dict. Nat. Biog.* 13:258. *Menzies' Journal of Vancouver's Voyage, April to October, 1792*, ed. by C. F. Newcombe (*Archives of British Columbia*, mem. 5, pp. 1-171,—1923). J. Forsyth, *Biographical Note [on A. Menzies]* (*Archives of British Columbia*, mem. 5, pp. vii-xii, with two portraits and three illustrations, 1923). A. Menzies, *Journal of Vancouver's Voyage along the Pacific Coast of North America*, pp. 1-752. ms. | *Menzies' Letters in the Banks Correspondence*. ms. | Meaney, E. S., *Biography of Archibald Menzies (Vancouver's Discovery of Puget Sound, 295-297,—1915)*. In this highly interesting book Meaney says that Menzies himself gives an account of the voyage in *Loudon's Magazine of Natural History*, vols. 1 and 2. These articles, however, relate entirely to his ascent of the mountain Whararai on the island of Owhyhee. It seems likely that this statement is copied from the *Dictionary of National Biography* (13:258).]

Daniel Cleveland.

One of the localized lip-ferns of the foothills of San Diego County is *Cheilanthes Clevelandii* Eat. It was named for Daniel Cleveland, for sixty years a resident of San Diego, who gave his leisure to the pleasures of collecting and study of the native plants.



DANIEL CLEVELAND

Ferns had for him an especial interest but he neglected few of the great groups of the plant kingdom. Being a pioneer he naturally gathered many new things. At a very early period he began to send plants to Asa Gray, who named for his correspondent a new *Pentstemon*, *P. Clevelandii*, discovered by Cleveland in Cañon Tantillas, northern Baja California, but which later turned up at several stations in the mountains of coastal Southern California. Gray also named for him an endemic *Salvia* of San Diego's chaparral slopes as *Audibertia Clevelandii*.

One vacation period, in June, 1882, he spent in Lake County at Allen's Springs and thus *Astragalus Clevelandii* Greene and *Linum Clevelandii* Greene were named for him, as also the well-marked *Senecio Clevelandii* Greene from the same region. Greene likewise named the Shooting Star of San Diego County as *Dodecatheon Clevelandii*, and also *Spergularia Clevelandii* (Greene) Rob. from the same district. The month of July, 1882, Cleveland botanized in Plumas County, mainly about Prattville. Otherwise, his botanical trips were for the most part into the back country of San Diego County which was then much larger than it is at the present time.

In that early day, brand-new generic types were not infrequently discovered in one or other of the Californias. In 1833 Lyman Belding collected in the Victoria Mountains of Baja California a new plant which Greene published as *Orthocarpus Beldingi* (Bull. Cal. Acad. 1:123) but soon used as the type of a new genus *Clevelandia* (l. c. 1:182) in honor of Daniel Cleveland. Thereupon the author of the genus writes contentedly to Cleveland: "You and Bebb¹ are nicely disposed of *generically* according to my reckoning" (Cleveland Corr. 87, ms.); but Asa Gray felt that the step was not well-

¹ Referring to the genus *Bebbia* in honor of M. S. Bebb, the salicologist.

taken and writes to Greene, "I wish you had given a better genus to good Cleveland" (Letters Witty and Salty and Wise, 278, ms.). While admitted in Engler & Prantl's *Die Naturlichen Pflanzenfamilien* (4th: 99), it is with the qualifying remark: "Die Gattung ist von *Orthocarpus* nur schwer zu trennen." Aside from the ultimate fate of this genus, Cleveland's name is well perpetuated by many specific names which give remembrance to his lifelong interest in the indigenous flora.

Born March 21, 1838, at Poughkeepsie, New York, Cleveland studied law and was licensed in 1859. From 1859 to 1866 he followed his profession in San Antonio, Texas, of which city he was mayor for one year in 1865-1866. In November, 1867, he came to San Francisco, thence to San Diego in May, 1869, where he practiced law and became well known in the city's civic life. The San Diego Society of Natural History is only one of many organizations which he helped to found and make prosperous. To San Diegans he was more than an attorney-at-law—he was a scientist, local historian, hard-headed man of affairs, humanitarian and religious leader who crowded many achievements for the betterment of the city into his busy days. The years of his life, ninety years and nine months, ended at San Diego on Jan. 3, 1929.

Cleveland's distributed plants are mainly preserved in the Gray Herbarium and the Greene Herbarium, though some are to be found in the University of California Herbarium. He never sold any plants or made collecting a business. The Cleveland Correspondence (ms.), includes many interesting letters from Asa Gray, Geo. E. Davenport, E. L. Greene, C. C. Parry, Geo. Vasey, Geo. Engelmann, J. G. Lemmon, S. B. Parish and many other botanists and botanical collectors. So far as memory serves he published little in botany; a list of names of the marine algae collected by himself at San Diego which is appended to Orcutt's "Flora of San Diego Co. and Lower California", pp. 12-13 (1885); also a series of articles on "Bee Pasturage Plants of San Diego County, California" in the periodical *Bees and Honey* for 1928, written in the same year.

Never robust physically, Cleveland went about seeking health on many a vacation trip, and as he went he made botany a recreation. Greene writes him: "I hope you gain strength in your mountain sojournings; and you surely add to the knowledge of our state flora wherever you go" (Cleveland Corr. p. 39, ms.). Most of his letters, it may be noted, contain some reference to his bodily ailments. Perhaps, as they humorously say in New England, he was one of those who enjoyed poor health and thus came into the fullness of enriching well-spent years.

[For further details as to his life and activities consult: Biographical sketch in *San Diego Union*, Jan. 4, 1929. Cleveland Correspondance, pages 1-547, ms. Botanical Letters of Other Days, pages 72-91, ms.]